

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system having a downlink indicator channel ~~(DL₁)~~—for the transmission of an indicator signal ~~(302)~~—indicating that a data packet is ~~(202)~~ scheduled to be transmitted on a downlink data channel ~~(DL₂)~~—from a primary station ~~(100)~~—to a secondary station ~~(110)~~, the secondary station having receiving means ~~(114)~~—for receiving the indicator signal and the data packet, and acknowledgement means ~~(114)~~—for transmitting a signal ~~(206)~~—to the primary station to indicate the status of the received data packet, wherein the secondary station comprises means ~~(114)~~—for transmitting on an uplink channel ~~(UL)~~—a status signal ~~(204)~~—to indicate receipt of the indicator signal before transmission of a positive or negative acknowledgement ~~(206)~~ to indicate the status of the received data packet.

2. (Currently Amended) A-The system as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that wherein the status signal is the same signal as that used for a negative acknowledgement.

3. (Currently Amended) A primary station (100) for use in a communication system having a downlink indicator channel (DL_i) for the transmission of an indicator signal (302) indicating that a data packet (202) is scheduled to be transmitted on a downlink data channel (DL_d) from the primary station to a secondary station (110), wherein means (104) are provided for receiving on an uplink channel (UL) a status signal (204) from the secondary station to indicate receipt of the indicator signal before reception of a positive or negative acknowledgement (206) to indicate the status of the data packet received by the secondary station.

4. (Currently Amended) A-The primary station as claimed in claim 3, characterised in that wherein the status signal is the same signal as that used for a negative acknowledgement.

5. (Currently Amended) A secondary station for use in a

communication system having a downlink indicator channel $\{DL_1\}$ —for the transmission of an indicator signal $\{302\}$ —indicating that a data packet $\{202\}$ —is scheduled to be transmitted on a downlink data channel $\{DL_2\}$ —from a primary station $\{100\}$ —to the secondary station $\{110\}$, wherein receiving means $\{114\}$ —are provided for receiving the indicator signal and the data packet, acknowledgement means $\{114\}$ —are provided for transmitting on an uplink channel $\{UL\}$ —a signal $\{206\}$ —to the primary station to indicate the status of the received data packet, and means $\{114\}$ —are provided for transmitting a status signal $\{204\}$ —to indicate receipt of the indicator signal before transmission of a positive or negative acknowledgement to indicate the status of the received data packet.

6. (Currently Amended) A—The secondary station as claimed in claim 5, characterised in that wherein the status signal is the same signal as that used for a negative acknowledgement.

7. (Currently Amended) A—The secondary station as claimed in claim 5 or 6, characterised in that claim 5, wherein the status

signal is transmitted at the same power as a positive acknowledgement.

8. (Currently Amended) A secondary station as claimed in any ~~one of claims 5 to 7, characterised in that means (112, 118) are provided~~ claim 5, further comprising means for resetting a timer on receipt of the indicator signal and for modifying a characteristic of uplink transmissions until the timer expires.

9. (Currently Amended) A secondary station as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that means (114) are provided further comprising means for transmitting a-negative acknowledgements for each time at which a data packet could have been transmitted if no transmission of a data packet is detected, and in that such and wherein the negative acknowledgements are only transmitted until the timer expires.

10. (Currently Amended) A secondary station as claimed in claim 8 or 9, characterised in that wherein the timer has a duration of one sub-frame.

11. (Currently Amended) A secondary station as claimed in claim 9, characterised in that means (114) are provided further comprising means for transmitting a positive or negative acknowledgement of a received data packet N times, where N is predetermined, and for transmitting subsequent negative acknowledgements until the timer expires.

12. (Currently Amended) A secondary station as claimed in claim 11, characterised in that wherein the timer has a duration of N sub-frames.

13. (Currently Amended) A secondary station as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 12, characterised in that means (114) are provided claim 5, further comprising means for transmitting a plurality of status signals before transmission of the acknowledgement.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a communication system having a downlink indicator channel (DL₄)—for the

transmission of an indicator signal (302) indicating that a data packet (202) is scheduled to be transmitted on a downlink data channel (DL₂) from a primary station (100) to a secondary station (110), the method comprising the secondary station receiving the indicator signal and the data packet, and transmitting (806) on an uplink channel (UL) a status signal (204) to indicate receipt of the indicator signal before transmission (810, 816) of a positive or negative acknowledgement to indicate the status of the received data packet.

15. (New) A communication system comprising:
a primary station; and
a secondary station;
wherein the primary station is configured to transmit an indicator signal followed by a data packet to the secondary station, and

in response to reception of the indicator signal and the data packet, the secondary station being configured to transmit a status signal to indicate the reception of the indicator signal before transmission of a positive acknowledgement or a negative

acknowledgement to indicate a status of the received data packet.

16. (New) The communication system of claim 15, wherein the status signal is a same signal as the negative acknowledgement.

17. (New) The communication system of claim 15, wherein the primary station has two chances to detect a case where the secondary station fails to detect the indicator signal or the data packet so that a power requirement of an uplink channel from the secondary station to the primary station is reduced.

18. (New) The communication system of claim 15, wherein the secondary station further comprises a timer configured to be reset on receipt of the indicator signal, and wherein the secondary station is further configured to transmit negative acknowledgements for each time a data packet could have been transmitted if no transmission of a data packet is detected, and the negative acknowledgements being only transmitted until the timer expires.

19. (New) A primary station comprising:

a transmitter configured to transmit an indicator signal followed by a data packet to a secondary station, and a receiver configured to receive a status signal from the secondary station to indicate a reception of the indicator signal by the secondary station followed by a reception of a positive acknowledgement or a negative acknowledgement to indicate a status of the data packet received by the secondary station.

20. (New) The primary station of claim 19, wherein the status signal is a same signal as the negative acknowledgement.

21. (New) A secondary station comprising:
a receiver configured to receive an indicator signal followed by a data packet from a primary station; and
a transmitter configured to transmit a status signal to indicate reception of the indicator signal before transmission of a positive acknowledgement or a negative acknowledgement to indicate a status of the received data packet.

22. (New) The secondary station of claim 21, wherein the

status signal is a same signal as the negative acknowledgement.

23. (New) The secondary station of claim 21, further comprising a timer configured to be reset on receipt of the indicator signal, and wherein the secondary station is further configured to transmit negative acknowledgements for each time a data packet could have been transmitted if no transmission of a data packet is detected, and the negative acknowledgements being only transmitted until the timer expires.

24. (New) A method of communication between a primary station and a secondary station comprising the acts of:

transmitting by the primary station an indicator signal followed by a data packet to the secondary station; and in response to reception of the indicator signal and the data packet, the secondary station transmitting a status signal to indicate the reception of the indicator signal before transmission of a positive acknowledgement or a negative acknowledgement to indicate a status of the received data packet.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the status signal is a same signal as the negative acknowledgement.